GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1740
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
WIDENING AMBIT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring forward a law to widen the ambit of Consumer Protection in the age of e-governance and e-commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the services to be covered therein and the time by which the new law is likely to be enacted;

(c) whether the draft law has been circulated to other concerned Ministries and States;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Ministries and the States thereon; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to the consumers therefrom?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e) Yes Sir. There is a proposal to further amend the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, which would inter-alia widen the scope of the Act to expressly provide for certain provisions to cover e-commerce transactions also. In consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments, who were generally supportive of the proposals, the proposals were finalized in the Department of Consumer Affairs and have been thereafter referred to Ministry of Law & Justice for their concurrence. In view of various processes involved till the enactment of the amendment proposals, no time frame can be suggested at this stage. The proposed amendments are aimed at further protecting the interest of the consumers.